

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~CR/NE
INCOMING

01/ / IMMEDIATE FRP: 5. . . 8

STATE

DCE
RF3
CAT-1
F-183 1258974 SCO PAGE 001 NC 1258974
TOR: 210634Z MAY 83

OO RUEA11B
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE Z2H
STU342
OO RUEHC RUEHD
DE RUEHBL #5819 1391753
ZNY CCCCC Z2H
O 191750Z MAY 83
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0514
INFO RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0153
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0146
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0175
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM 0225
RUEHNI/AMEMBASSY JORDA 0131
RUEHRM/USELDO RIYADH 0131
RUEHNV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0210
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 05819

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

ORIGINALLY PROCESSED AS CDS #1240625

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PRES, PINS, LE
SUBJECT: (NADIM BARRI) NEUTRAL ON AGREEMENT, NEGATIVE
ON GEMAYEL

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)
2. POLOFF AND NEA/ARN DIRECTOR MAXX CALLED ON AMAL
LEADER NADIM BARRI ON THE EVENING OF MAY 18, OUR FIRST
MEETING WITH HIM SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
ISRAELI-LEBANESE AGREEMENT (BARRI HAS JUST RETURNED
FROM A THREE WEEK VISIT TO ALGERIA, FRANCE AND SYRIA).
BARRI SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE
AGREEMENT HE DID NOT LIKE BUT ONLY MENTIONED ONE: THE
REFERENCE IN THE SECURITY ANNEX TO FORCES THAT WILL BE
PERMITTED TO OPERATE IN THE SECURITY ZONE, LIKE
HAWWAN HAMMADA (BEIRUT 5503). BARRI WAS CONCERNED
THAT THIS MIGHT BE A LICENSE FOR A LEGALIZED LEBANESE
FORCES PRESENCE. WE EXPLAINED THAT THE ENGLISH AND
FRENCH TEXTS, WHICH ARE AUTHORITY, MAKE IT CLEAR
THAT THE AGREEMENT PERMITS "OFFICIAL" ELEMENTS ONLY...
THE WORK OFFICIAL WAS INADVERTENTLY DELETED FROM
THE PUBLISHED ARABIC TEXT.
3. BARRI SAID THAT THE POSITION OF AMAL ON THE
AGREEMENT REMAINS THAT (A) THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT
SIGN ANY ACCORD THAT CONSTITUTES AN INFRINGEMENT
ON LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND (B) ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION
OF AN AGREEMENT IS A MATTER FOR THE LEBANESE
THEMSELVES. BARRI, WHO WAS IN DAMASCUS IMMEDIATELY
AFTER THE MAY 6 ANNOUNCEMENT, SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN
UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM THE SYRIANS TO
ACTIVELY OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT. HE DECLINED TO JOIN
THE ZOHARTA MEETING (BEIRUT 5680), TELLING THE
SYRIANS THAT HE WOULD BE READY TO ATTEND SUCH A
GATHERING IN BEIRUT BUT NOT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT
GAVE THE APPEARANCE HE WAS ACTING AT SYRIAN BEHEST.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

17

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~83 1258974 SCO PAGE 002 NC 1258974
TOR: 210634Z MAY 83

AS A RESULT, THE SYRIANS ARE UNHAPPY WITH HIM
ALTHOUGH HE WAS STILL RECEIVING DAILY "INVITATIONS"
BY TELEPHONE TO VISIT DAMASCUS (SEE BEIRUT 5645
FOR GEMAYEL'S ACCOUNT TO THE AMBASSADOR OF HIS
EFFORTS TO KEEP BARRI FROM GOING TO ZOHARTA AND SYRIAN
PRESSURE ON BARRI).

4. AS HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST, BARRI MADE CLEAR THAT
HIS REAL PROBLEMS WERE NOT WITH THE AGREEMENT ITSELF
BUT OVER LEBANESE DOMESTIC POLITICS AND WHAT HE
PERCEIVES AS THE PRO-PHALANGE/LP (OR AT LEAST ANTI-
AMAL) ATTITUDE OF GEMAYEL. REFERRING TO HIS MAY 14
MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, BARRI SAID THAT GEMAYEL
HAD ASPIRED TO A PROPOSAL THAT BARRI HAS BEEN
ADVANCING FOR SOME TIME: THE CONVENING OF A NATIONAL
CONGRESS INCLUDING ALL OF LEBANON'S "ACTIVE FORCES"

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNAL POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING.
THREE DAYS LATER, HOWEVER, LAF TROOPS CLASHED
WITH SHI'A DEMONSTRATORS IN BURJ AL-BARAJINAH, KILLING
ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDING SEVEN (BARRI NEGLECTED
TO ADD THAT SIX LAF SOLDIERS WERE ALSO INJURED).

BARRI STRESSED THAT THE DEMONSTRATION, IN PROTEST
OF THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE AGREEMENT, WAS NOT ORGANIZED
BY AMAL. IT WAS THE WORK OF THE "ORGANIZATION OF
MUSLIM ULEMA", INVOLVING FARHAWAD HASAN FADALLAH
AND OTHER RELIGIOUS FIGURES, INCLUDING SUNNIS, WHO
ARE BACKED BY IRAN. BARRI CHARGED THAT THESE
INDIVIDUALS WERE SEEKING RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT,
AND THAT VIOLENT GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST THEM
WOULD GIVE IT TO THEM. BARRI SAID HE HAD BEEN IN
CONTACT WITH Q-3 CHIEF QASSIS AND OTHERS IN THE
GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST THAT THE ARMY ALLOW AMAL
LEADERS TO CONTROL AND DEFUSE THE SITUATION, BUT TO
NO AVAIL (SEE USDAO BEIRUT 5724 - IR 6 857 0087 83
FOR ADDITIONAL REPORTING ON THE DEMONSTRATION).

5. IN ADDITION TO THE MAY 17 LAF-SHI'A CLASH, BARRI
SAID THAT THE ARMY WAS CONTINUING ITS ARRESTS OF
AMAL MEMBERS ON ALMOST A DAILY BASIS. THESE ACTIONS,
SAID BARRI, ARE UNDERMINING HIS POSITION AS THE
LEADER OF AMAL SINCE HE IS UNABLE TO PROTECT HIS
PEOPLE FROM ARBITRARY ARRESTS. NOTING THAT HIS LAST TWO
MEETINGS WITH GEMAYEL WERE FOLLOWED BY A DAY OR SO
LATER BY ARMY VIOLENCE AGAINST THE SHI'A AND
CONTINUING ARRESTS, BARRI SAID HE WAS FORCED TO QUESTION
WHETHER THE PRESIDENT WAS SEEKING TO IMPOSE
PHALANGE RULE ON ALL COMMUNITIES.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BARRI HAS NOT ENDORSED THE
ISRAELI-LEBANESE AGREEMENT, HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS
AND CONTINUED RESISTANCE TO SYRIAN BLANDISHMENTS
CONSTITUTE TACTIC ACCEPTANCE IN OUR VIEW. IN SPITE OF
THE STATEMENT THAT THERE WERE ASPECTS OF THE ACCORD HE
DID NOT LIKE, BARRI ACCEPTED THE POINTS WE MADE
SHOWING THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS CLEARLY TO LEBANON'S
ADVANTAGE. LIVE (VALD JEMALAT) ALTHOUGH TO A LESS
EXTREME DEGREE, BARRI'S CONCERN IS OVER THE INTENTIONS
OF AMIN GEMAYEL AND THE PHALANGE/LP, AND WE BELIEVE
HE IS READING THE AGREEMENT IN THAT LIGHT. ON
ANOTHER LEVEL, THE MAY 17 DEMONSTRATION, THE FIRST
ORGANIZED IN BEIRUT BY PRO-IRANIAN FIGURES SUCH AS
FADALLAH, IS A VISIBLE AND DISTURBING INDICATION
OF EXTREMIST INFLUENCE IN THE SHI'A SUBURBS OF
SOUTH BEIRUT. PUGH
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

X18

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~